



Greely Gardeners Group

Newsletter

November 2014

GREELY GARDENERS EVENTS

MONTHLY MEETING – Wednesday November 5

Topic: “Arranging Garden Flowers”

Guest speaker: Diana Carr (www.2flowergirls.com)

Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m.

If you would like to learn how to make simple but elegant flower arrangements for your home, you must come to internationally trained florist Diana Carr’s presentation – “Arranging Garden Flowers”.

Diana will cover all of the basics - cutting, arranging, fillers and grasses, keeping plant stalks upright, and using floral foam. She will make several arrangements that you can easily replicate at home. You’ll love Diana’s ideas for unique, affordable arrangements and you will have a chance to win an arrangement.

MONTHLY MEETING -- Wednesday December 3

Annual Christmas Pot-Luck Dinner

Mark your calendar an event not to be missed!

Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m.

Annual Christmas Pot-Luck Dinner

If you have not already signed up for this event and wish to do so, please contact Sue Young at 613-574-0098 to indicate what favourite food you would like to bring and whether you are bringing a guest. Please contact Sue before Monday November 24 so we know how many to plan for in seating, soft drinks and prizes.

Hope you will be joining us!

NEW GGG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2015

At our October Monthly Meeting, a final call was made for nominees to serve in the five Executive Officer positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Speaker Coordinator.

Nominations closed with only four names being put forward for these five positions. Lee Nickerson was acclaimed to the position of President, Denyse Becker was acclaimed to the position of Vice-President, Jane Rietze was acclaimed to the position of Treasurer, and Elaine Routledge was acclaimed to the position of Speaker Coordinator. The Secretary position is still vacant and the function will be filled by one of the Executive Officers or an Executive Member-at-Large until a volunteer has come forward to serve as Secretary.

Three members came forward to volunteer to serve as Members-at-Large on the Executive Committee: Leslie Boomer, Jan Brown and Adele Landmesser.

A call also went out to see if there was any interest in a member taking over some or all of the responsibilities for the monthly Newsletter. Heather has been writing the Newsletter for the past five years and would like to see someone else eventually take it on.

If you would like to serve on the GGG Executive Committee or help out with the Newsletter, please contact Lee Nickerson (613-594-2014) or Gary Hall (613-821-7445), or send an e-mail to: greelygardeners@gmail.com

GGG 2015 MEMBERSHIP FEES

If you are intending to renew your annual membership at our next meeting, please consider printing a membership form from our website www.greelygardeners.ca and filling it in ahead of time.

There will be a special draw prize at the November meeting for those who have joined or renewed their membership for 2015.

At only \$10 for the year, we are still the best bargain in town!

OTHER GARDENING EVENTS

Ottawa Valley Rock Garden & Horticultural Society: Saturday 25 October, “Arctic Plant Phenology”, Zoe Panchen, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., Westboro Masonic Hall, 430 Churchill Avenue, Ottawa (Guests welcome)
<http://www.ovrghs.ca/meetings/meetings.html>

Ottawa Horticultural Society: Tuesday 28 October, “Wildlife-Friendly Gardening 101”, Melissa Lefebvre, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., Tom Brown Arena, 141 Bayview Road.
<http://ottawahort.org/events/wildlife-friendly-gardening-101/>

The Ottawa Bonsai Society: Bonsai course for beginners in November 2014, to be followed in the spring of 2015 by a workshop during which participants will have the opportunity of developing their own bonsai using provided material. This theoretical course will cover bonsai fundamentals which include a portion on traditional Japanese design and a portion on the horticultural aspects in our climate. On completion, participants will have the essential knowledge required to begin to develop bonsai for our climate zone. Lecture notes will be provided.

Cost is \$20 per person for OBS members and \$30 for non-members, to be paid at the start of the course.

DATES: The course will be in two parts:

Part 1: Monday, November 3, 2014 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Part 2: Monday, November 10, 2014 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre 102 Greenview Ave., Ottawa.

REGISTRATION: No later than October 31st, 2014.

For additional information, please contact:

Yvon Bernier: 819 684-0586; Fax [819 684-7365](tel:819-684-7365); ycbernier@videotron.ca

Kanata March Horticultural Society: Tuesday November 4, “Whispering in the Wind – Ornamental grasses”, Edythe Falconer, Master Gardener, 7:30 p.m., Old Town Hall, 821 March Rd, Kanata (Guests \$5)

Manotick Horticultural Society: Monday November 10, “Fresh Flowers for the Holidays”, Joanne Plummer of Mill Street Florist, 7:30 p.m., Main Hall, RCMP Campground, Long Island Locks, Manotick (Guests \$5)
<http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/manotick>

Champlain Park Garden Club: Tuesday November 11, “Lessons from My Big Fat Garden Reno”, Rebecca Last, Master Gardener, 7:00 p.m., Champlain Park Fieldhouse, 149 Cowley Ave, Ottawa (Guests \$5)

MEETING REPORT OCTOBER

Our guest speaker in October was Marilyn Light. Marilyn was born and raised in Montreal where she studied agriculture and microbiology at McGill University. As a scientist, Marilyn loves to experiment with new plants. She grows herbs, vegetables, garlic, annuals and perennials and just about anything else that can be raised from seeds. Marilyn



also grows and hybridizes daylilies and tropical orchids. One of her orchid hybrids, named for her mother, Evelyn Light, who stimulated her interest in orchids, is pictured on a Canadian stamp. Marilyn is editor of the Orchid Conservation News and chairs the North American Region Committee of the Orchid Specialist Group/Species Survival Commission. She is a member of the Canadian Committee, World Conservation Union (IUCN).

Marilyn’s talk was not about orchids or other plants but about another of her interests namely “Attracting Pollinators to Your Garden”.

Marilyn began her talk by stating that pollinators are all about plants. She used a slide to list the needs of pollinators, gardeners and plants; pollinators requiring food, a place to shelter or rest, a place to reproduce, not too much competition and consistency over seasons and years. Gardeners benefit with food to harvest, a happy space, a learning environment, a "bio-logical" garden and low cost maintenance. The plants benefit by producing seeds. But not all pollinators require the same foods. Bees and wasps, for example, require both pollen and nectar as food, while flies and beetles look for pollen and ants and hummingbirds are after nectar. In all cases they assist with pollinating the plants due to the juxtaposition of the pollen and nectar in the flower.

Attracting specific pollinators to your garden can be assisted with the choice and diversity of plant material you provide and the season in which it is available. A gardener wanting to attract the greatest diversity of insect pollinators will plan a spring through fall buffet to include bulbs, shrubs, annuals and perennials, small fruits and vegetables. For example, Marilyn noted that butterflies are particularly attracted by white flowers, while hummingbirds favour red; scarlet runner beans are a particular favourite for hummingbirds.

Ensuring pollen and nectar are available from spring through to autumn is one way to encourage pollinators to remain in your area. Spring crocuses are a good early pollen source as are blossoms on flowering cherry trees. Butterflies overwinter as pupa and emerge in the spring. Apple blossom and peonies also attract pollinators early, especially bumble bees. For hummingbirds Marilyn suggested putting out a feeder early in the spring that will attract them and keep them in the area. Later in the season red flowers in the garden will help to keep them around.

In summer there are lots of flowers for the pollinators and other insects, such as aphids, also provide food that attracts pollinators to the garden. In the autumn Marilyn noted that asters and garlic chives especially attract bees.

Winter is also important for the pollinators. They need to find homes to overwinter; rock walls, unturned compost, holes in logs all provide shelter. Holes in logs particularly attract solitary bees.

Marilyn illustrated her talk with many slides of bees and other pollinators. She also answered a number of questions. One question in particular had a lot of attention; the lack of pollination of squash plants. Evidently some squash and cucumber are parthenocarpic which means they do not need pollinators. Parthenocarpy - literally meaning virgin fruit - is the natural or artificially induced production of fruit without fertilization of ovules. The fruit is therefore seedless.

However, regular squash plants (as well as pumpkin and zucchini) produce male and female flowers. If there are no bees or other insects around one can pollinate the female flowers by using a small paint brush or a cotton swab to transfer pollen from the



male flower (long narrow stalk) to the female flower (the one with the swollen ovary below the petals). [Reading on the Internet one can also remove the petals from a male flower use the anther as a brush to transfer pollen to the female stigma.]

We learned a great deal about pollinators from Marilyn and hopefully will appreciate and tolerate many more insects in our gardens knowing that they are doing a very useful job!



OCTOBER TO DO LIST (TAKEN FROM TROWEL TALK)

- It's not too late to plant spring bulbs but they should be planted ASAP to allow the roots to establish. Tulips are more forgiving than daffodils for late season planting.
- If there is a tree or shrub that you want to wrap for winter protection, hammer the supports in now before the ground freezes. Only add the burlap or perennial blanket (white felt-like cloth) after the ground has frozen and rodents have already found their winter home.
- Fall is a good time to pull up weeds so that you're off to a fresh start next spring.
- Clean and oil your tools before putting them away for the winter to prevent rust.
- Make sure you have any seed starting supplies (such as pots) stored in the house or garage (so that you're not trying to shovel out the garden shed in March).

Greely Gardeners Group – 2014 Executive Committee

President:	Lee Nickerson	613-574-0214
Vice-President:	Denyse Becker	613-425-1157
Treasurer:	Jane Rietze	613-699-6330
Secretary:	vacant	
Speaker Coordinator:	Elaine Routledge	613-692-9988
Past-President:	Gary Hall	613-821-7445
Member-at-Large:	Leslie Boomer	613-821-0101
Member-at-Large:	Jan Brown	613-821-1366
Member-at-Large:	Adele Landmesser	613-469-8964

Other Regular Volunteer Positions

Treats Coordinator	Melody Tomka	613-821-1985
Gifts Coordinator	Phyllis Nickerson	613-574-0214
E-Newsletter Editor:	Heather Clemenson	613-821-7445
Website Updates:	Gary Hall	613-821-7445

Website URL www.greelygardeners.ca
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